(a) whether it is a fact that there is long time demand of devotees going to visit Sai Baba in Shirdi that an airport be constructed in Shirdi with air connectivity to all major cities of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has any plan to set up the airport at Shirdi;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In February, 2006, Chairman of Shri Sai Baba Sansthan Vishwastavyavastha, Shirdi has sent a request in this regard.

(c) to (e) Government of Maharashtra through Maharashtra Airport Development Corporation (MADC) had got the area surveyed and identified a piece of 450 hectares of land for the airport near Shirdi towards Kopargaon. However, no proposal has been received by the Union Government, as yet, from the Government of Maharashtra, in this regard. Therefore, it will not be possible to indicate the details at this stage.

Helipads for commonwealth games

1555. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to have helipads in each of the nine districts of Delhi for the upcoming Commonwealth Games; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Ministry of Civil Aviation has decided to set up heliports/helipads in the country particularly in and around Delhi to meet the significant and growing demand for helicopter services and also in view of the ensuing Commonwealth Games. Pawan Hans Helicopter Limited (PHHL) has requested Delhi Development Authority (DDA) for allotment of land at Rohini, at Commonwealth Games Village site and Dusghara Village near Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa for this purpose. DDA has given in principle approval for helipad to be constructed by PHHL at Commonwealth Games Village site.

Rules for cabin crew

1556. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that individual airlines are now implementing the rules pertaining to Cabin Crew flight time limits, etc. as per the labour laws;

(b) if so, whether it is true that the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has prepared a draft Civil Aviation Requirement Proposal for Cabin Crew in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Flight Duty Time and Flight Duty Time Limitation of Cabin Crew are governed by Directorate General

of Civil Aviation (DGCA)'s Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR) Section 7 Series 'J' Part I dated 4th August 1997. Implementation of CARs is mandatory by all domestic airlines.

(b) A draft to revise the existing CAR was prepared and circulated but later withdrawn, due to the decision to revise CAR relating to Flight Duty Time Limitation of pilots.

(c) The existing CAR is available on DGCA's website www.dgca.nic.in.

Shortage of officers at ATC

1557. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR:
SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a shortage of officers to man the Air Traffic Control (ATC) centres at the country's airports and that their recruitment has not kept pace with the increase of air traffic to and from India;

(b) whether it is also a fact that against international norms of handling a maximum of 10 flights at a time, in Delhi an air traffic control officer handles upto 30 flights during peak hours, thereby jeopardizing safety of all concerned;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what steps Government proposes to correct the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir. However, keeping in view the additional requirement of controllers due to opening of new airports, new ATC sectors and increased Air Traffic in the country the Airports Authority of India, from time to time recruits ATCOs, which is a continuing exercise.

(b) to (d) No, Sir. The Air Traffic Controllers handle the air traffic in accordance with standards, prescribed by ICAO without jeopardizing air safety.

Landing charges at Amritsar Airport

1558. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the landing charges at Amritsar airport are much higher than the charges levied at Delhi Airport;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the rates are different for international and national carriers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The tariff for landing charges is different for domestic and international airports. Amritsar and some other airports which were declared as international airports in May 2000 are being treated as domestic airports for tariff purposes as per a policy decision of the Government. As per the said policy, the tariff as applicable at other international airports would be made applicable to